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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

O God of field and forest, who made the hill and stream, thank You for creating in us a wonder for sky and brook and stone. Thank You for the glorious inspiration of the brilliant dawn and sunsets fading from blue to gold. Forgive us when we let our priorities compete with our loyalty to You. Open our minds to the counsel of eternal wisdom and breathe into our souls Your peace. Lord, increase our hunger and thirst for right living and lead us nearer to You. Bless our Senators. Help them to honor You both in spirit and deeds. We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we resume consideration of the budget resolution. There are now 27 hours remaining for debate on that resolution. The chairman and ranking member are here and are ready to continue with the consideration of amendments.

Under the order from last night, following Senator ENSIGN's remarks, Senator MURRAY will offer an amendment related to education. Following the Murray amendment, Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina will offer an amendment regarding TRICARE. Rollcall votes will therefore occur throughout the day.

We will complete the budget resolution this week. It will be a long day today and late tonight, I assume, as well as tomorrow and tomorrow night. I ask for the cooperation of all Members as we do everything we possibly can to assist the managers in completing the budget resolution.

Mr. President, once we get on the bill, I have a short statement.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the statement of the two leaders be charged against the time on the budget resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under of the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 95, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 95) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Nevada, Mr. ENSIGN, is to be recognized for up to 30 minutes.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a short statement I will give, and I assume the Democratic leader will have a statement. Following that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Nevada be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to open by congratulating the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and ranking member and all committee members for the outstanding work they have done in bringing this resolution to the floor in a very timely manner. It was a little over a month ago that the President of the United States transmitted his proposed budget to the Congress, and the Budget Committee, under real time constraints, was able to hold hearings and debate, mark up, and report its own congressional budget plan and bring it to the floor last Thursday evening.

My experience with budget resolutions on the Senate floor tells me that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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